

Message from the Chief

Introductory Chief's Memo

This is my first weekly memo. It is my plan to communicate on a weekly basis by electronic memo to every CDF employee. I firmly believe that, as Chief, I have a responsibility to keep you informed.

This is one of many mechanisms I will use to accomplish that responsibility. In addition, I will be visiting as many work sites as I can to meet all of you, share information, and listen to you.

Since becoming acting director, I have had a number of briefings by the CDF executive management team, individual Unit Chiefs, individual Region Chiefs, the Board of Forestry, the Unit 8 leadership, the Unit 7 leadership, and many other stakeholders. I want to thank all of those involved in preparing and delivering these briefings. The quality and content has been outstanding.

I have directed staff to identify key issues of importance to CDF personnel and to begin providing information via the Intranet. The first such item is the "Tulare Transition." <http://webmain1/Newsletters/TulareContractStatus.pdf>. I am committed to ensuring a smooth and professional transition in a manner that continues to provide a high degree of customer and employee satisfaction. Look for updates on the CDF Intranet.

I am currently developing a 100-day plan based on the briefings that I am receiving and identifying those critical issues that will involve my personal attention and participation. Over time you will see that I value a participative style of leadership. I will soon be establishing internal and external advisory committees to assist me with problem solving and communications. The advisory committees are not a replacement for executive management decision-making, but rather a supplement to help with information sharing and consensus building.

I look forward with great anticipation to meeting you and working with you. I hope to earn your respect and your support.

Regards,



Ruben Grijalva, Chief
Acting Director



Budget Pressures

The Governor's Budget was released January 10, 2006 and will now be reviewed by the Legislature. The bulk of additional funding provided in the latest budget has been directed to Education, Health Services, and Transportation.

The mid-year analysis on our fiscal status is in full swing. We are facing serious budget deficiencies in the current fiscal year. CDF Units were contacted and were asked to respond back to Budget Services with their fiscal information by January 23, 2006 to assist us in making budget decisions. While there is no reason to panic, we must take the current budget situation seriously and act responsibly.

A second budget meeting to discuss the current year budget pressures is scheduled for January 24th.

Legal Issues

This week the department received an electronic records litigation hold from Pacific Lumber Company's (PALCO) attorneys. Staff in Legal is working with IT to determine the most efficient method to comply with the request without paralyzing CDF's computer system. Chief Bill Snyder has sent out a memo to the field to be sure anyone with documents -- related to the litigation hold -- archives them and identifies what they have. Chief Counsel Giny Chandler will be working with PALCO's attorneys to coordinate a document retention system that will work for CDF and meet PALCO's needs.

Technical Services and Engineering

I received a briefing on the Tech Services program this week.

Bids for two fire stations (Springville in Tulare County and Harts Mill in Butte County) were returned within budget prior to the Holidays.

CDF was recognized in the Governor's address relating to infrastructure needs. \$250 million dollars has been included for CDF in the Governor's budget. While this amount does not address CDF Technical Services five-year plan need for \$1.6 billion, it is a beginning.

Mobile Equipment

Mobile Equipment has released a Model # 35 Engine to Shasta this week. Two sedans and one pick-up were released to the field last week. Additionally, we anticipate the release of four sedans next week. Five of the sedans are currently being outfitted by the Department of General Services (DGS).

This year's Fire Engine and ECT specifications should be sent out to the vendors in a few weeks, the purchase estimates are currently under going final review at DGS Procurement. This is an order for 42 Engines and 24 ECT bodies.

We have received 9 ECT chassis while another eight Model # 34 chassis are currently undergoing pre-delivery inspections and should be shipped to the vendor shortly for the construction on the next eight engines. Twenty CDF light vehicles are scheduled to be sold in next weeks DGS auction.



Model #34



Emergency Crew Transport (ECT)

Legislation

The Legislature is back in session and we are beginning to review all the new and returning two-year bills. Recently, there have been several bills that were amended that would be of interest to CDF.

AB 1423 was gutted and amended from "Metropolitan water districts utilization of budgets" into proposing to change the name of "CDF" to "CAL-FIRE."

SB 841 introduced by Senator Hollingsworth that would authorize a local or state fire official to authorize an owner of property to construct a 300 foot firebreak, was amended and limited to buildings such as hospitals, residential care facilities or schools.

Everyone is encouraged to visit the CDF Legislative Office link on the intranet for current/real-time listing of all the bills that the department is monitoring along with bill summaries, positions and links to the Legislature to view complete bill text, committee analyses and committee and floors voting records.

State Fire Marshal

The State Fire Marshal's Office is heading up the fire service input into amending the California Fire and Building Codes as we convert from the Uniform Codes to the International Codes. This is a major project for SFM. Any field prevention or fire marshal staffs interested in participating are invited to do so with supervisory approval.

Former State Fire Marshal Ronny Coleman will be spending Jan 18th at OSFM presenting a historical overview of California Fire Service Training. Both CDF and SFM training staff are welcome to attend. The afternoon will be spent in brainstorming and developing concepts for restructuring State Fire Training.

Resource Management

The Statewide Foresters meeting planned for April at Lake Tahoe (Granlibakken) has been cancelled due to budgetary constraints.

CDF is working with North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and Pacific Lumber Co. (PALCO) to streamline the Timber Harvest Plan (THP) process and the General Report of Waste Discharge (GWDR) requirements of the North Coast Water Board.

Tom Lutzenberger, the assistant deputy director of management services, and Chiefs Bill Snyder and Duane Shintaku are meeting with the Department of Finance this week to respond to questions related to the cost of THP review.

Fire Protection Automation

The California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS) Work Team is developing the CAD to CAIRS link. TCU and TGU will be the beta testing sites in March 2006. The targeted implementation is prior to fire season 2006.

The interagency Resource Ordering and Statusing System (ROSS) Work Team is meeting to develop the final recommendations for business practices and implementation strategy for CDF. The newest ROSS version, which is due in March, will include the aircraft screen. Training continues and will be completed in May. CDF is still researching the best possible connectivity to the ROSS database in Kansas City that is economically feasible.

CDF is meeting with Region 5 US Forest Service to review the Engine and Tender Equipment Information System (EaTIS) to see if the automation is a viable product for CDF.

Communications

CDF-Television

The Discovery Channel's three-part series titled "Into the Firestorm" will premiere Tuesday January 17, 2006. Check your local listing for your airtime. Each episode will feature Forest Service Smokejumpers, Hotshots and the CDF San Diego Unit Heli-Tack crew as they responded to incidents throughout the 2005 season. CDF personnel will be featured in all three episodes on the next three consecutive Tuesdays. Please note that public interest and response to this series will be what generates any future Discovery Channel interest in projects with CDF. If your friends and family watch this series and they really like it, let the Discovery Channel know. CDF has endless programs that are suitable for TV. Matt Streck, Fire Apparatus Engineer-San Diego Unit, was pivotal in making this program happen.

CDF-Publications

This is the first issue of the Chief's Weekly Memo. If you have something that you'd like the Chief to share with CDF employees statewide, please send your email to Mike Jarvis. The deadline is noon Wednesday of every week.